

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

RE: THE CLAIMS AMENDMENTS

Claim 6 has been amended only to correct the antecedent basis problem pointed out by the Examiner. Namely, claim 6 has been amended only to replace the term "said holder" at line 2 with "said first and second holders" and to replace the term "the holder" at line 7 with "said first and second holders". It is respectfully submitted that claim 6, as amended, is in full compliance with all of the requirements of 35 USC 112, second paragraph, and it is respectfully requested that the rejection thereunder be withdrawn.

In addition, withdrawn claim 5 has been amended to recite a second light illuminator at line 4 to better accord with claim 4, withdrawn claim 7 has been amended to depend from claim 15 and to replace the term "said holder" at line 3 with "said selectively attached first or second holder", and withdrawn claim 8 has been amended to replace the term "said holder" at line 6 with "said first and second holders" and to make a minor grammatical improvement. These amendments are being made to put the withdrawn claims in better form for issuance in a U.S. patent upon allowance of their parent claim 15, and it is respectfully

requested that these claims be considered and allowed upon allowance of their parent claim 15.

It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the claims only relate to correcting non-substantive informalities which are not related to patentability, and that no new matter has been added and that no new issues have been raised which require further consideration on the merits and/or a new search. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered under 37 CFR 1.116.

RE: THE DRAWINGS

The Examiner objected to the drawings for failing to show the feature of the present invention relating to the use of a second holder for supporting a second light illuminator (as recited in claim 15), and for failing to show the feature relating to the plurality of holders each of which holds a light illuminator, an objective lens, and an observation tube (as recited in claim 16).

It is respectfully pointed out, however, that Fig. 6 clearly shows the second holder 21 and the precise alignment of the second holder with respect to the second light illuminator 41. In addition, it is respectfully pointed out that Fig. 6 clearly shows the means by which the second light illuminator 41 is connected to and supported by the second holder 21. See bolt 23

and the dotted line arrow showing the insertion of bolt 23 through fixing counterbores 41c to screw holes 21b, and see also the description in the specification at pages 13-16. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Fig. 6 does show the second holder for supporting the second light illuminator, as recited in claim 15.

It is respectfully pointed out, moreover, that Figs. 1, 2, 5 and 6 show a plurality of holders each of which holds a light illuminator, an objective lens, and an observation tube, as recited in claim 16. Specifically, Fig. 5 shows a first holder 50 and its connection to the first light illuminator 40 and the objective lens 50. Figs. 1 and 2 show the first holder 20 mounted on microscope main body 10 and supporting the first light illuminator 40 as well as the objective lens 50 and the observation tube 80. And Fig. 6 shows the second holder 21 and its connection to the second light illuminator 41 and objective lens 50. In addition, the specification discloses at page 15, lines 13-20 that the first holder 20 and the second holder 21 are interchangeably attached to the microscope main body 10. Based on this disclosure, it is obvious that the second holder 21 also supports an observation tube 80 as shown in Figs. 1 and 2 with respect to the first holder 20. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Figs. 1, 2, 5 and 6 do show a

plurality of holders, each of which holds a light illuminator, an objective lens, and an observation tube, as recited in claim 16.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

RE: THE OBJECTION TO CLAIM 3

The Examiner objected to claim 3 as failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. It is respectfully pointed, however, that lines 2-3 of claim 3 contain a limitation not found in either claim 2 or claim 15 from which claim 3 depends. Namely, claim 3 recites at lines 2-3 that the microscope focusing apparatus further comprises "a revolver which holds a plurality of objective lenses in a changeable manner". Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to claim 3 be withdrawn.

THE REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 112, FIRST PARAGRAPH

On page 4 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 15 under 35 USC 112 "because the disclosure, as originally filed, does not provide support for the microscope having a first holder for holding a first light illuminator and a second holder for holding a second light illuminator". Similarly, the Examiner rejected claim 16 "because the disclosure, as originally filed, does not provide support for the microscope having a the [sic]

plurality of holders each of which holds a light illuminator, an object lens and an observation tube."

It is respectfully submitted, however, that the disclosure in the specification clearly and fully supports the recitations in both claim 15 and claim 16. For example, the specification clearly describes at pages 11-13 the connection between the microscope holder 20 (the first holder) and the illuminator 40. (See Fig. 5.) In addition, the specification clearly describes on pages 13-15 the connection between the microscope holder 21 (the second holder) and the light illuminator 41. (See Fig. 6.) And still further, the specification describes at page 13, lines 18-20 that the light illuminator 41 (the second light illuminator) is heavier than the light illuminator 40 (the first light illuminator). Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the features recited claim 15 whereby the microscope has a first holder for holding a first light illuminator and a second holder for holding a second light illuminator is fully supported by the disclosure in the specification.

Still further, as described on page 8 of the specification, the objective lens 50 and light illuminator 40 are attached to the microscope holder 20, and an observation tube 80 is attached to the light illuminator 40. And as described on page 15, lines 21-25, "even in the microscope having a different attaching shape, when the microscope holders 20, 21 are selected in

accordance with the shape, the same microscope focusing apparatus can be used." And as described on page 13, lines 14-26 of the specification, the microscope holder 21 (the second holder) and light illuminator 41 (the second light illuminator) are utilized in a modification of the use of the microscope holder 20 (the first holder) and light illuminator 40 (the first light illuminator). Clearly, the microscope holder 21 and light illuminator 41 also use the objective lens 50 (See Fig. 6) and the observation tube 80. And it is respectfully submitted that it would have been obvious to anyone of ordinary skill in the art that the microscope holders 20 and 21 and respective light illuminators 40 and 41 are attached to the objective lens 50 and observation tube 80. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the feature recited in claim 16 whereby the microscope has a plurality of holders each of which holds a light illuminator, an object lens and an observation tube is fully supported by the disclosure in the specification.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 15 and 16 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

RE: INTERVIEW ON DECEMBER 11, 2003

The Examiner is thanked for conducting the interview held on December 11, 2003, and is invited to telephone the undersigned at

any time to discuss in detail any of the issues addressed in this Amendment.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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